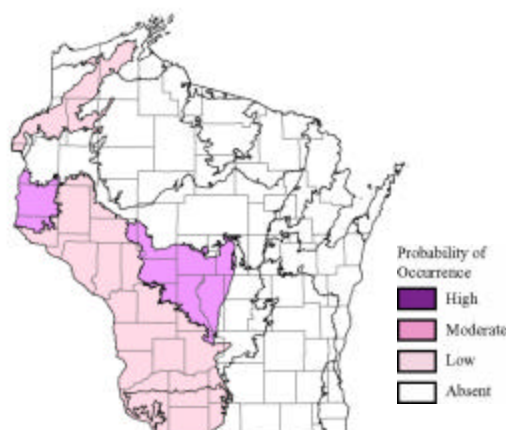


## White-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii*)

### Species Assessment Scores\*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	3
State population trend:	5
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.7
Area of importance:	1

\* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



### Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

### Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Plains	Dry prairie
Central Sand Plains	Dry-mesic prairie
Central Sand Plains	Sand prairie
Central Sand Plains	Surrogate Grasslands
Southwest Savanna	Dry prairie
Southwest Savanna	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Sand prairie
Western Prairie	Dry prairie
Western Prairie	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Prairie	Sand prairie
Western Prairie	Surrogate Grasslands

### Threats and Issues

- Predation threatens this species.
- Diseases such as Tularemia and cuterebra (botfly) may be a threat to this species.
- Loss of prairie habitat to agricultural cultivation, roads, and housing is a threat to this species.
- Legal harvest/shooting may be an issue for this species (it is listed as a game animal in Wisconsin with a daily bag limit of 3, and a season from October 16 to November 15).
- Mortality from vehicles may be an issue for this species.

**Priority Conservation Actions**

- Reintroduction into regions covered by the Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Plans may be the most viable means of re-establishing this species.
- Consensus is needed on whether the species should be considered as introduced, non-native, or native through range expansion in Wisconsin. The latter designation would suggest that additional conservation action may be warranted, including protection from harvest.
- Providing clearings and prairies will be beneficial for this species, as it prefers open country. Formerly rare, the jackrabbit has become numerous as a result of clearing and drainage operations.